

- (21) Application No. 13598/75 (22) Filed 3 April 1975  
 (31) Convention Application No.  
 7 412 200U (32) Filed 6 April 1974 in  
 (33) Fed. Rep. of Germany (DE)  
 (44) Complete Specification published 30 March 1978  
 (51) INT. CL.<sup>3</sup> B01D 45/10  
 (52) Index at acceptance  
 BIT 397 421 422 454 476 535 538

(19)



(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO  
SEPARATION DEVICES

(71) We, METALLWERK BIEBIGHAUSER  
KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN, a  
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sigstrasse, 5670 Opladen, Germany, do  
hereby declare the invention for which we  
pray that a patent may be granted to us,  
and the method by which it is to be per-  
formed, to be particularly described in and  
by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to devices  
for the separation of oil from gaseous  
fluids containing an oil mist.

According to the present invention, there  
is provided a device for the separation of  
oil from gaseous fluids containing an oil  
mist, comprising a housing having an inlet  
at one end portion and an outlet at an op-  
posite end portion, and turbulence-produc-  
ing means comprising at least one baffle  
plate located in the housing, the housing  
being formed by two cup-like housing  
members one of said housing members  
including the inlet and the other of said  
housing members including the outlet and  
the said housing members having at their  
adjacent end portions, mutually parallel  
surfaces between which are held the edge  
portions of the or each baffle plate which  
extends across the width of the housing, the  
turbulence-producing means being operative  
to generate turbulence in the gaseous fluid  
flowing through the housing to thereby  
separate the oil therefrom, the said baffle  
plate or plates being the sole means in the  
housing for causing separation of the oil  
from the fluid.

Preferably, the turbulence-producing  
means comprises two baffle plates each  
formed with plane annular outer edge por-  
tions which are arranged in face-to-face  
relationship against each other and against  
the adjacent contact surfaces of the hous-  
ing members, and one housing member has  
a diametrically enlarged end portion which  
fits over the end portion of the other hous-

ing member. Such an arrangement provides  
precise contact of the two plates, and also  
accurate location of the two plates with re-  
spect to each other and to the housing.

In one preferred embodiment, the en-  
larged end portion of the housing member  
is shaped to form a flange which encloses  
a transversely outwardly directed flange at  
the adjacent end portion of the other hous-  
ing member. In this embodiment, the con-  
nection of the two housing members to  
each other and the fixing of the plates  
within the housing, is provided by means  
of a swaging operation. In another prefer-  
red embodiment, in which the said other  
housing member lacks an outwardly  
directed flange, the two housing members  
are connected by brazing or soldering.

To effect an improvement in the separa-  
tion efficiency one of the plates is prefer-  
ably formed with gas inlet slots and is  
located before the other plate, which is  
provided with outlet apertures, in the in-  
tended direction of flow of the gaseous  
fluid, and both plates have a dished por-  
tion to establish a turbulence chamber be-  
tween the plates. With this arrangement,  
the pressure of the gaseous fluid traversing  
the device is reduced in the turbulence  
chamber, so that the oil mist contained in  
the gas precipitates in the form of oil  
droplets.

Advantageously, the first or upstream  
plate is provided with four punched-out U-  
shaped excisions to form the gas inlet  
slots, and with a plane baffle portion. This  
form of the baffle plate can be shaped in  
one action during the punching-out oper-  
ation.

Preferably, the housing is arranged to be  
vertically positioned with one of the hous-  
ing members located above the other hous-  
ing member. A pipe, acting as a connector  
stub, is provided with a projection which is  
pressed out of the wall of the pipe at the

upper end portion thereof to act as a stop for determining the position of the pipe on the lower housing member and to leave in the wall of the pipe, a drain opening whereby separated oil can drain from the bottom of the lower housing member.

Embodiments of the invention, will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partially in section, of a first embodiment of an oil separation device in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-section through a downstream baffle plate of the device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the downstream baffle plate;

Figure 4 is a cross-section through an upstream baffle plate of the device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal section through a second embodiment of the device;

Figure 6 is a cross-section through a downstream baffle plate of the device shown in Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a plan view of the baffle plate shown in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a cross-section through an upstream baffle plate of the device shown in Figure 5; and

Figure 9 is a plan view of the baffle plate shown in Figure 8.

Each of the separation devices shown in the drawings comprises a housing formed by a lower cup-like housing member 1 and an upper cup-like housing member 2, the housing members each having rotational symmetry about the longitudinal axis of the housing. The housing members 1 and 2 are of approximately the same diameter and have mutually parallel surfaces at or near their adjacent end faces. An upstream baffle plate 4 and a downstream baffle plate 5 are clamped between these surfaces, these plates act as turbulence producing elements.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 1 to 4, the lower housing member 1 is integrally formed with a tubular connector stub 1a and the upper housing member 2 has an opening 2a to permit the insertion of a discharge hose (not shown). The lower housing member 1 is provided at its upper end with an annular flange 1b extending outwardly at right angles to the axis of the housing, and which increases the annular contact surface area for the baffle plate 4. The flange 1b is enclosed within an enlarged end portion 2b of the upper housing member 2, the annular contact surface for the sieve plate 5 being increased by the end portion 2b. The baffle plates 4 and 5 are formed with plane annular outer rims

4a and 5a, respectively, to provide a relatively large contact area between the two plates 4 and 5 and between the plates and the corresponding surfaces of the housing members 1 and 2, respectively. The upper housing member 2 is secured to the lower housing member 1 by swaging-over the end portion 2b which simultaneously secures the plates 4 and 5 within the housing.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 5 to 9, the upper end of the lower housing member 1 is not provided with an annular flange; consequently, the enlargement of the end portion 2b of the upper housing member 2 is smaller than shown in Figure 1. Sufficiently large surfaces are nevertheless obtained for the outer rims 4a and 5a, respectively, of the baffle plate 4 and of the baffle plate 5, as will be apparent from Figure 5. Fastening of the upper housing member 2 to the lower housing member 1 is effected by swaging or by soldering or brazing, whereby the plates 4 and 5 are secured in position within the housing.

The lower housing member 1 is provided with a separate pipe 3, instead of an integral connector stub as shown in Figure 1, the pipe 3 having, at its upper end portion, a projection 3a pressed out of the wall of the pipe. The projection 3a acts as a stop for determining the position of the pipe 3 with respect to the lower housing member 1, and also leaves in the wall of the pipe a drain opening for separated oil which collects on the bottom of the lower housing member 1.

As shown in Figure 9, the baffle plate 4 is provided with four punched-out U-shaped excisions 4b. These punched-out excisions 4b form air inlet slots in a dish-shaped main portion of the baffle plate 4. A plane plate portion 4c is formed at the same time. The baffle plate 5 is provided with a plurality of holes 5b, the size and number of which are selected in accordance with the conditions which will exist within the housing. The baffle plate 5 is also provided with a dish-shaped portion. A turbulence chamber 6 is defined between the dish-shaped portions of the baffle plate 4 and the baffle plate 5, in which the pressure of the gaseous fluid passing through the housing is reduced. The separation of the oil present in the gaseous fluid in the form of oil mist is thereby improved.

To assemble the device described above, the baffle plate 5 and the baffle plate 4 are located in the enlarged end portion 2b of the upper housing member 2, and the lower housing member 1 is then placed in position. Assembly is completed after the swaging-over of the enlarged end portion 2b or after the latter has been brazed or soldered to the lower housing member.

The production of the device particularly described is simplified by the use of two rotationally symmetrical cup-like housing members, which may be produced in a simple manner, to form the housing; the two baffle plates, which act as built-in turbulence producing elements, can be stamped out in a simple manner in the form of circular discs. The assembly operation of the device is simplified by the fact that these two plates are placed between the end faces of the housing members prior to joining the two housing members to each other, and are secured together with the housing members, so that a separate fastening operation for the plates is superfluous.

The separation device may be situated in a venting duct leading to the combustion space of an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, and the device may also be used in a hydraulic transmission system of a motor vehicle.

The separation device may be adapted in a simple manner to the prevailing conditions, since it is possible to change the size of the air inlet slots or outlet apertures of the baffle plates without varying the form and size of the two-piece housing and the method of installation of the device. The device may, for this reason, be adapted to different types and sizes of combustion engines for example, without any difficulties.

The device particularly described is of relatively simple construction, and requires a relatively small space; further, the device has a relatively high separation efficiency.

In the device described, the baffle plates, which produce the turbulence in the fluid, are the sole means in the housing for causing separation of the oil from the fluid. The device thus also contrasts with separators of the type in which means are provided for inducing a uniform helical or cyclonic flow (i.e. a non-turbulent flow) in the separator housing so as to cause separation of liquid from a gaseous flow through the housing.

#### 50 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A device for the separation of oil from gaseous fluids containing an oil mist, comprising a housing having an inlet at one end portion and an outlet at an opposite end portion, and turbulence-producing means comprising at least one baffle plate located in the housing, the housing being formed by two-cup like housing members one of said housing members including the inlet and the other of said housing members including the outlet and the said housing members having at their adjacent end portions mutually parallel surfaces between which are held the edge

portions of the or each baffle plate which extends across the width of the housing, turbulence-producing means being operative to generate turbulence in the gaseous fluid flowing through the housing to thereby separate the oil therefrom, the said baffle plate or plates being the sole means in the housing for causing separation of the oil from the fluid.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the turbulence-producing means comprises two baffle plates each comprising a plane annular outer edge portion, the outer edge portions of the two plates being in face-to-face engagement with each other and with the adjacent surfaces of the housing members, and one housing member having a diametrically enlarged end portion which is disposed around the adjacent end portion of the other housing member.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the said end portion of the said one housing member is shaped to enclose an outwardly-directed annular flange projecting transversely from the said end portion of the other housing member.

4. A device according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein one of the plates has gas inlet slots, the other of the plates has outlet apertures, the said one plate is located before the said other plate in the intended direction of flow of the gaseous fluid, and both plates are dish to form a turbulence chamber between said plates.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the said one baffle plate is provided with four punched-out U-shaped excisions to form the gas inlet slots and a plane plate portion.

6. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the housing is arranged to be generally vertically mounted such that one of the housing members is located above the other of the housing members, the inlet is provided at the lower end portion of the lower housing member, the outlet is arranged in the upper end portion of the upper housing member, and a pipe is located in the inlet, said pipe having a projection pressed out of the wall of the pipe at the upper end portion thereof to act as a stop for determining the position of the pipe relative to the lower housing member and to leave in the wall of the pipe an opening through which oil can drain from the bottom of the lower housing member.

7. A device according to any of claims 130

1 to 6, wherein the housing members each have rotational symmetry about the axis of the housing.

8. A separation device substantially as 5 hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Agents for the Applicants.

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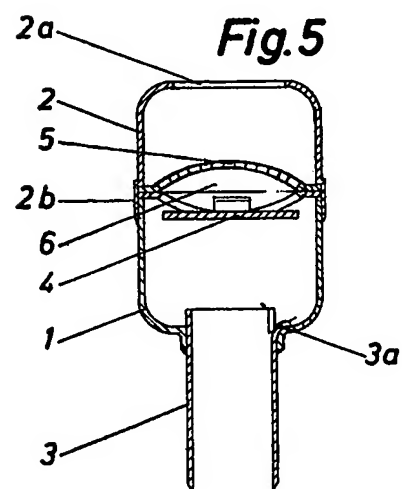
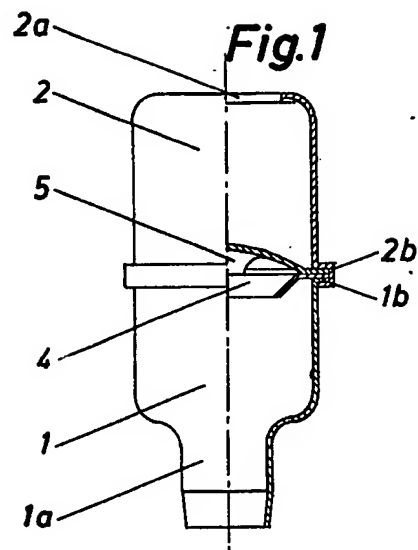
Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by The Tweeddale Press Ltd., Berwick-upon-Tweed, 1978.  
Published at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AY, from which copies  
may be obtained.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

2 SHEETS

*This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale  
Sheet 1*



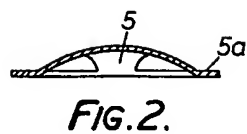


FIG. 2.

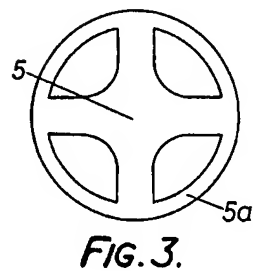


FIG. 3.

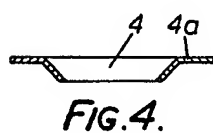


FIG. 4.

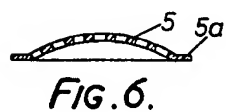


FIG. 6.

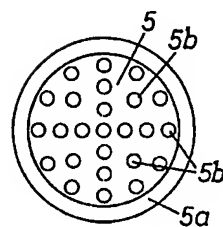


FIG. 7.

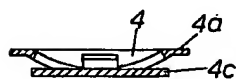


FIG. 8.

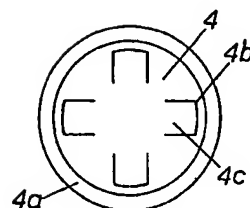


FIG. 9.